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Your Reference: 10910P3 GB/AK
Application No: GB 0201002.3

1 August 2002

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977:
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)**

Latest date for reply: 19 January 2004

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **10 June 2003**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".**

[†]**Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Yours faithfully,

Michael Conlon
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could **prominently indicate** in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



Application No: GB 0201002.3
Claims searched: 1-10

Examiner: Michael Conlon
Date of search: 31 July 2002

Patents Act 1977

Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.T): C5D D178
Int CI (Ed.7): C11D 17/04
Other: Online: WPI EPDOC PAJ

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage		Relevant to claims
A	GB2363704 A	(Meadows)	-
A	EP1035200 A2	(Soft 99)	-
A	US5900068	(Thomas)	-
X, Y	US5055216	(Johnson) column 2 lines 37-40	1 at least
Y	US3965518	(Muoio) claim 1 and the Examples	1 at least

N Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.
& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



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Patents Act 1977

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Inventive step

1. The invention as defined in claim(s) is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following documents:

US5055216 (Johnson) column 2 lines 37-40	Doc 1
US3965518 (Muoio) claim 1 and the Examples	Doc 2

2. Doc 1 is regarded as providing art which shows that the matter of claims 1-10 does not involve an inventive step when taken on its own in combination with common knowledge in the field of cleaning.

In particular 1 discloses a wipe comprising two layers of non-woven material which may be joined by adhesive (column 2 lines 10 to 40), which adhesive can be regarded as providing the barrier required by the present invention. One of the layers can be impregnated with a cleaning solution and the other may be "left free of additives to serve as a dry towel". This matter corresponds directly to the intent of the present invention set out on page 2 lines 12-15 of the present description.

The present invention differs from that disclosed in 1 largely in the definition of the cleaning solution. The prior art does not include the silicone or the thickener required by the present claim 1 or the solvent or scouring agent required by later claims.

It is not clear how these differences can be viewed as providing the required inventive step since these materials are common ingredients in cleaning compositions and it would not seem to require inventive ingenuity to apply a different cleaning solution to the wipe of the doc 1.

3. With reference to Doc 2: this document includes the use of a silicone in a disposable wipe and therefore goes part of the way to meeting the compositional features of claim 1. When taken in combination with the disclosure of Doc 1 this would render the claims 1-10 non-inventive from this aspect also. In this connection it is pointed out that no separate search has been made for a composition comprising the components set out in the claims. It would seem to be common ground that such a composition would be known.

4. It would seem to be necessary therefore that the presence of an inventive step be demonstrated for the matter of the present claims.

Other matters

5. The description should be rendered consistent with any fresh claims file.



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[Examination Report contd.]

6. The reference to the spirit of the invention should be deleted from page 4 lines 29-33.

The title of the invention

7. The title of your specification does not clearly indicate the nature of your invention. I suggest "Cleaning implement with absorbed cleaning composition" would be a better title.